



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
OPPOSING
SB-986, AA REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO ENTER INTO PROPRIETARY INTEREST
AGREEMENTS PRIOR TO RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE
BEFORE THE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2015**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut has significant concerns with SB-986, and urges rejection. Requiring certain employers to enter into a "proprietary interest protection agreement" as a condition of receiving economic development assistance is dangerous precedent and poor economic development policy that sets Connecticut apart from other states against which we are competing for business. While maintaining proper labor relations should be a goal of any workplace, unnecessary mandates and conditions such as those that would be imposed under this bill is not the way to go. Specifically, NFIB/Connecticut objects to the provisions in Section 1 (b)(2)(A) (lines 53-57) which seems to abandon the well-established private ballot election process in lieu of a "card check" procedure for the purposes of union organizing at a private business. Arbitrary/inconsistent tax preferences, constant change and complexity are top NFIB member complaints about current tax & labor policies, and this legislation unnecessarily further changes the playing field for businesses in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to take no action on SB-986.